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**BUTTE COUNTY MAN INDICTED FOR
UNLAWFUL FIREARM POSSESSION**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ROBERT LEE VEALE, 30, formerly of Chico, California, was indicted today by a federal grand jury and charged with two counts of the crime of felon in possession of a firearm. Count one of the indictment charges VEALE with possession of a firearm on March 22, 2005 in Chico, California and count two charges possession of a firearm on March 28, 2005 also in Chico, California. The case has been assigned to United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Chico Police Department, the Butte County Sheriff's Office, and the office of the FBI located in Chico, California.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, VEALE previously was convicted by the state of California of felony battery with serious bodily injury.

VEALE is currently in state custody at the Butte County Detention Center facing additional California state charges. On each federal felon in possession of a firearm charge, VEALE faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, a \$100 statutory assessment, and a 3-year term of supervised release.